OB3 Watch/Warning/Advisory (WWA)
Testing Meeting Minutes - November 4 - 5, 2003

1. Purpose: To discuss the design and functionality of OB3 WWA in order to identify enhancements and problems that need to be fixed for all of the NWS regions to approve of this Release. This was a well attended meeting which included representatives from the CONUS NWS regions, SPC, TPC, OS, SEC, and MDL. These meeting minutes will also be provided to the OCONUS regions for their review and approval. The meeting was held in Silver Spring Metro Center (SSMC) Building II, Rooms 10246.

2. Attendance:

Eastern Region	Joe Palko (PBZ)
	Josh Watson (ERH)
Central Region	Greg Noonan (CRH)
Southern Region	Barry Goldsmith (TBW)
	Scott Plischke (AMA)
Western Region	Craig Schmidt(WRH)
	Matt Jackson (TFX)
SPC	Gregg Grosshans
TPC	Michelle Mainelli
MDL -	Laura Cutrer (OST23)
	James Lieu (OST23)
	Mark McInerney (OST23)
	Cecelia Mitchell (OST23)
	Doug Murphy (OST23)
	Sean Webb (OST23)
NWS HQ	Chris Alex (OS22)
	Sanford Girard (OPS21)
	Deirdre Jones (OST3)
	Ashley Kells (OPS21)
	Frank Lucadamo (OPS24)
	Kevin Lynott (OS31)
	Rich Okuliski (OS22)
	Sal Romano (OS11)
	Mark Tew (OS22)

Art Thomas (OS22)
Jason Tuell (OST32)
Herb White (OS22)

3. Welcome and introductions

Deirdre Jones, the Director of the Systems Engineering Center (SEC) welcomed everyone and defined the goals of this meeting. Deirdre emphasized how helpful the participants' feedback on the software's usability is to the developers. OB3 WWA will be updated based on the comment obtained during this testing meeting. Deirdre and later Mark McInerney asked for volunteers to then Alpha test the updated OB3 WWA. All of the regional and WFO participants agreed to perform such Alpha testing.

4. Identification of OB3 WWA Functionality

Mark McInerney provided the group with draft WWA OB3 Release Notes and the WWA Application Information Summary. These two documents were used to introduce the functionality changes made in OB3 WWA. The documents will be updated to reflect the modifications made to OB3 WWA based on the comments obtained during this meeting.   These two updated documents will be placed on the WWA web site and the WWA listserver.

5. Testing of OB3 WWA

Sean Webb demonstrated various scenarios to test OB3 WWA's new features and then the group performed testing individually.   Based on the functionality demonstrated and the individual testing, the group recommended that OB3 WWA functionality should be changed as follows:

WWA OB3 Field/Regional Software Recommendations

5A. OB3 Recommendations:

1.   Move up on-line help instructions, "cook book" into OB3.

2.   Bug: Lose issued watch in WWA if "Delete" key selected during upgrade/downgrade process.

3.   Transmit Interface Alterations:
   i.   Add "unlimited Undo" function to new transmit editor
   ii.   Only popup "cancel" prompt box if text changed in transmit editor.
   iii.   Add prompt box to "Send" button"...ie "Transmit PDXWSWPDX?"
   iv.   Change "Transmit" to "Send" found under File on the menu bar.
   v.   Adjust button bar. Left justify "Send" button, right justify all other buttons (Search, Spell, Exit)
   vi.   Error check for **!** **!** do not disseminate if either or both are present.

4.   WWA Interface tweaks:
   i.   While in practice mode a reference to the pil WWAWRKWWA needs to be made in the transmit editor title bar.(Currently only shows pil, ie PDXWSWPDX) and successful transmit message box says for example, "PDXWSWPDX transmitted" When really practice products are not transmitted, but stored locally in WWAWRKWWA. Same considerations need to be taken for transmit fail message box while in practice mode.
   ii.   In WWA Monitor change name of "Delete" button to "Delete/Restore".

5. Buffer the product purge time by 15 minutes in the WWA Composer when "Canceling". Fifteen buffered minutes in Composer + built in 15 minutes = 30 minutes as requested.

6. When performing an upgrade/downgrade/replace, the descriptive text from the original hazard and descriptive text from the upgraded/downgraded/replacement hazard are currently being double up in same segment. This is intended for overlapping hazards; however, this is not needed in the special case of upgrade/downgrade/replacement.

7. Update CAE templates from zone type to county type.

8. Update CAE *all* templates to reflect a standard MND framing:

> !** PUT BROADCAST ACTION HERE - CONSULT SDM **!
> CIVIL EMERGENCY MESSAGE
> !** PUT ISSUE AGENCY HERE **!
> RELAYED BY NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON
> 11:30 AM EDT WED SEP 24 2003
>
> Green - Frame, expect forecaster input.
> Blue - Special hardwired phrase in CEM templates, that is, these are not used in other templates.
> Red - Dynamic site name.

   Affected WWA template files: TBD

9. When generating a WWA that continues a hazard (or "remains" in effect segment), the descriptive text is not brought forward for that segment in final transmit editor.

10. (OB3? - Policy under question) Incorporate discussed attribute workaround. Update NPW, WSW templates to comply with attribute policy (10-515). Backup method not specified. Workaround has carriage return as is shown in the example that follows:

   ...Headline...

The National Weather Service Albany NY
has issued a Blizzard Warning.

A blizzard warning.....<descriptive text continues>.

5B. OB3 Documentation Updates:

1. Users Manual: Provide workaround description to add geography to segment type headlines. WR needs National requirement for FW and hydro products.

2. Users Manual: Standardize framing to !** ENTER TEXT HERE **! Any other will not be error checked..

3. What's New Document and Users Manual: Customize new template files (Optional), Merge CAE and Attributes changes into custom files, if needed.

4. Users Manual: Provide users steps, "cookbook", to new upgrade/downgrade/replace functionality. Update online-help function with new instruction (OB3.1?)

5. What's New Document: New snapshot of transmit editor to reflect new button bar and correct headline removing ":".

6. What's New Document and Users Manual: Section describing template file merge of net attributes field and also mention options for backup which are silent in NWS policy.

7. Users Manual: Instruction on how to switch AWIPS Key names (WSW to NPW) in WWA. This will also cover future FFA hydro change.

5C. OB4 Recommendations:

S   Provide permanent solution, possibly a selectable option, to replace !** PUT BROADCAST ACTION HERE - CONSULT SDM **! workaround, as described above and in 10-1701.

S   Incorporate permanent solution to NPW/WSW attribute policy (10-515). That is, no line between descriptive text field and attribute field and improve dynamic site field(?). Get backup specified. To replace OB3 workaround.

S   Have HLS (and possibly other WFO tropical products) converted to segmented form to accommodate TPC to WWA headline injections task. (OS response needed)

S   Provide permanent solution to incorporate geography into headlines for segmented products.

S   Second ordering tier for segment/VTEC ordering - Already assigned as part of WBC/WCN updates.

5D. General OBx Recommendations:

1. Remove "OK" Selection from display only message boxes

2. VTEC & headline ordering within each segment (New Requirement)

3. Add Key bindings for all editors and other relative WWA GUI's

4. Provide field with template file examples highlighting discovered useful defining techniques (Users Manual, Web, both(?))

5. Make expiration time longer and/or provide popup box when products about to expire. (Does have FR)

6. Convert hydro products to segmented format (OS response needed).

7. Spell Check Alterations:
    1. Highlighted words should only be checked when running spell check functionality. Currently entire text widget is checked when a word(s) is/are highlighted.
    2. Start the spell check from point of cursor and wrap back to cursor location.
    3. In spell check interface the tab key traverses buttons for key board selection. However, this tab function does not allow users to select the desired dictionary from the provided pull down menu.

8. When unlike hazards overlap the upgrade/downgrade/replace functionality should automatically recognize that this is not an upgrade/downgrade/replacement and not present the upgrade/downgrade/replace message box option.

9. "Remaining" or "original" segments do not save to the WWA database. One example of this is zone A and B in a watch. Zone B is updated and zone A remains in watch. Zone A descriptive text presented in final transmit editor for editing, however FTE bypassed so changes are not saved in WWA database. Solution: Save descriptive text field after product is sent.

10. Develop an "Unselect All" option for WWA Monitor which will unselect any selected hazards in monitor list box.

11. NWR formatting on non-segmented products only works for initial product issuance, all other life cycles do not format NWR products. (This fix will be in OB4 only if non-segmented products are still supported)

12. Transmit Interface Alterations:
- Up arrow key should move up "one" line when long text wraps into multiple lines.

It was stated that none of the individual issues are very significant; however, there are many. Thus, as many of the issues as possible should be fixed in order to make OB3 WWA more useable. Overall, with these fixes, everyone in attendance agreed they thought OB3 WWA looked good and will recommend to their regions to accept it.

6. Couple OB3 issues discussed during the testing are as follows:

A. Identification of attributes line in NPW/WSW products during backup situations

There was an unresolved issue concerning the implementation of an OB3 NWS policy issue. The policy was silent on the attributes line so the group tried to define the best policy themselves. In particular, this issue concerns how the issuing/local office should be identified in the NPW/WSW during backup situations. The options discussed were as follows:

1 - **List the issuing office** in the product for the site it is backing up. For example, if Pittsburgh (PBZ) is backing up Cleveland (CLE), the WWA product would read "**The National Weather Service Pittsburgh PA**
has issued ..." Some group members were concerned that this would cause the public to wonder why Pittsburgh is issuing a product for the Cleveland area and, thus, if it is a mistake.
2 - **List the local office**. For example, if Pittsburgh (PBZ) is backing up Cleveland (CLE), the WWA product would read "**The National Weather Service Cleveland OH**
has issued ..." Some group members did not like this inaccuracy of which office actually issued the product.
3 - **Don't list any office name**. For example, if Pittsburgh (PBZ) is backing up Cleveland (CLE), the WWA product would read **"The National Weather Service**
has issued ..." There was concern that this would worry the WFO personnel since it implies WFOs are not needed.
4 - **Don't list this attributes line at all**.

Upon voting on this issue, a slight majority of the group was in favor of option number 2, "List the local office." The WWA development team agreed to provide the four possibilities listed above in the WWA Users Manual and let the forecasters select the preferred one. However, it will be noted that NWS policy prefers listing the local office (i.e., option number 2).

B. Format for CAE headers in WWA templates

All of the new CAEs (e.g., CAEs for Child Abduction=CEMs) should have default header information. This header information is to formatted as follows:

"Anne Arundel - 042017

<Broadcast Action>

CIVIL EMERGENCY MESSAGE
!***PUT ISSUE AGENCY HERE***!
RELAYED BY NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON
0817AM EST TUEDAY NOVEMBER 4 2003"

The group discussed three ways to provide options for the insertion/selection of the Broadcast Information (i.e., ISSUE AGENCY) in the CEM templates as shown in this following example.

1. In this case, three options would be provided in the CEM template in a columnar format. When preparing the CEM, the forecaster would delete the two options that are not to be used. A concern was that the forecaster may forget to delete those two. The template would contain the following: "Pick one of the following three options:
   !**URGENT**!
   !**EAS ACTIVATED REQUESTED**!
   !**IMMEDIATE BROADCAST**!"
2. In this case, three options would be provided in the CEM template in an linear format. When preparing the CEM, the forecaster would delete the two options that are not to be used. A concern was that the forecaster may forget to delete those two. The template would contain the following: "Pick one of the following three options: !**URGENT**! !**EAS ACTIVATED REQUESTED**! !**IMMEDIATE BROADCAST**!"
3. This option alleviates the concern that the forecaster may forget to delete the two Broadcast Actions that aren't wanted.
   "!**Put Broadcast Action here**!"

The group agreed that the CEM template should be formatted according to option 3 (i.e.,   "!**PUT BROADCAST ACTION HERE - CONSULT SDM**!").

In OB4 WWA, an interface will possibly be provided for the forecaster's selection of this header information.

7. Discussion of an OB4 issue

A. A first and second tier segment/VTEC order in WWA products was proposed, where the first tier applies to the product type (Items 1 and 2) and the second tier applies to the product action for VTEC (Items 3, 4, and 5). This was proposed for the ordering of the VTEC lines; however, the group recommended that this order also apply to the positioning of headlines and the product segments. The proposed ordering follows:

1. Corrections

   a. Warnings
   b. Advisories
   c. Watches

2. Cancellations

    a. Warnings
    b. Advisories
    c. Watches

3. Warnings

    a. Upgrades/Replacements
    b. New
    c. Extensions in Area
    d. Extensions in Time
    e. Continuations

4. Advisories

    a. Upgrades/Replacements
    b. New
    c. Extensions in Area
    d. Extensions in Time
    e. Continuations

5. Watches

    a. Upgrades (Long Duration)/Replacements (Short Duration)
    b. New
    c. Extensions in Area
    d. Extensions in Time
    e. Continuations

8. Action Items:

A. Mark Tew (OS 22) will provide NWS Regions with options for the format of the header information in the new CAE template products (e.g., Child Abduction). The preferred header information format will be incorporated in the OB4 WWA CEM templates.

B. The OB3 WWA software will be provided to the WWA Working Group members attending this meeting for Alpha testing at their local sites around November 12, 2003. As many as possible of the modifications resulting from this OB3 WWA Testing meeting will be incorporated into this Alpha test version. Testers were requested to provide their testing results as soon as possible since there will be very little time left for OB3 bug fixes. The testing results will be distributed to all of the testers.

C. Provide the various options for the attributes line in NPW/WSW products when they are issued by

Backup sites.

9. Proposed dates for the next WWA Working Group monthly meeting and annual WWA Workshop

 The next monthly meeting was scheduled for Thursday, December 4, 2003 beginning at 3 p.m. EST. The next annual meeting, the annual WWA Workshop, was tentatively scheduled for February 2004, at NWSHQ.   This is planned be a combined annual WWA Workshop and OB4 WWA Testing meeting. By meeting in the middle of February 2004, this will provide additional time to the WWA development team to incorporate fixes for problems the group identifies during the OB4 WWA testing, into the OB4 WWA.